

Appl. No. 10/073,623
Reply to Final Office Action Dated Feb. 6, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An image capturing device, comprising:
an electronic image sensor;
a memory including a motion detect routine, a predetermined image interval, and at least one predetermined motion threshold; and
a processor communicating with said electronic image sensor, a shutter button, and said memory, said processor being configured to: (a) compare a second image to a first image, wherein the second image is captured after the first image is captured, to determine if motion between said second image and said first image is below said at least one predetermined motion threshold, (b) store said second image as a final image if the motion between said second image and said first image is below said at least one predetermined motion threshold, and (c) capture a third image and compare the third image with the second image to determine if motion between said third image and said second image is below said at least one predetermined motion threshold if the motion between said second image and said first image is not below said predetermined motion threshold.
2. (Original) The image capturing device of claim 1, said memory further including a predetermined sampling pattern of pixels to be sampled in a captured image and wherein a comparison is performed on pixels included in said predetermined sampling pattern.
3. (Previously Presented) The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to compare a main object of the second image with a main object of the first image to determine if motion between said second image and said first image is below said at least one predetermined motion threshold.

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4. (Previously Presented) The image capturing device of claim 1, said memory further including a number of regions data dividing a captured image into a plurality of image regions and wherein a region-by-region comparison is performed between two successive images.

5. (Original) The image capturing device of claim 1, said memory further including a motion detect variable, wherein a motion detection is performed when said motion detect variable is set to an enable state.

6. (Original) The image capturing device of claim 1, wherein said predetermined motion threshold is user-settable.

7. (Currently Amended) The image capturing device of claim 1, ~~wherein said processor stores said current image as said final image when said current image is determined to be stable~~ wherein said processor is further configured to set a hold out timer to expire in a predetermined amount of time in response to detecting a shutter button press.

8. (Currently Amended) The image capturing device of claim 1, ~~wherein said processor stores said current image as said final image when said current image is determined to be stable and a shutter button press is detected~~ wherein said processor is further configured to store said second image as a final image in response to the expiration of said hold out timer.

9. (Original) The image capturing device of claim 1, said memory further including a hold timeout timer that stores a predetermined hold timeout period and wherein said current image is stored as a final image if said hold timeout timer expires.

10. (Currently Amended) An image capturing method, ~~comprising the steps of:~~
~~detecting a shutter button press in order to initiate the image capturing method; and~~

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in response to detecting the shutter button press, performing an image capturing operation, wherein the image capturing operation produces a final image and comprises the acts of:

- (a) capturing a previous image;
- (b) capturing a current image;
- ~~comparing said current image and one or more previous images;~~
- (c) determining if said current image is stable with regard to motion; and
- (d) if it is determined that said current image is stable with regard to motion,
then storing the current image as the final image of the image capturing operation;
and
- (e) if it is determined that said current image is not stable with regard to
motion, then converting said current image to be said previous image and repeating
the step of capturing a new image as said current image and repeating the steps of
comparing and determining if said current image is not stable; wherein the step of
capturing a current image and the steps of comparing and determining are repeated
until said current image is determined to be stable repeating steps (b) through (e).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~the step of~~
~~storing said current image as a final image when said current image is determined to be~~
~~stable~~ setting a hold out timer to expire in a predetermined amount of time in response to
detecting the shutter button press.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~10~~11, further comprising the step of
~~checking a hold timeout timer and storing said current image as a~~ the final image upon
expiration of said hold timeout timer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of waiting a
predetermined image interval between image captures.

14. Cancelled.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares all pixels in said current image and in said previous image.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares a predetermined sampling pattern of pixels in said current image and in said previous image.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares a predetermined region in said current image and in said previous image.

18. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares a user-designated region in said current image and in said previous image.

19. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares a user-designated object in said current image and in said previous image.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of comparing compares a plurality of regions in said current image to a corresponding plurality of regions in said previous image, and wherein said current image is determined to be stable when all regions in said plurality of regions are determined to be stable.

21. (Currently Amended) An image capturing method, comprising the steps of:
detecting a shutter button press; and
in response to detecting the shutter button press, performing an image capturing operation, wherein the image capturing operation produces a final image and comprises the acts of:

setting a hold out timer to expire in a predetermined amount of time;

capturing a first image;

capturing a second image after capturing the first image;

comparing the second image to the first image;

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determining whether the hold out timer has expired;
if it is determined that the hold out timer has expired, then storing the second image
as the final image of the image capturing operation;
determining if the second image is stable with regard to motion;
if the second image is stable with regard to motion, then storing the second image as
a the final image, and
if the second image is not stable with regard to motion, then (i) capturing a third
image and (ii) comparing the third image to the second image.

22-23. Cancelled.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of waiting a predetermined time interval between image captures.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares all pixels in said second image and in said first image.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares a predetermined sampling pattern of pixels in said second image and in said first image.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares a predetermined region in said second image and in said first image.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares a user-designated region in said second image and in said first image.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares a user-designated object in said second image and in said first image.

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30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of comparing compares a plurality of regions in said second image to a corresponding plurality of regions in said first image, and wherein said second image is determined to be stable when all regions in said plurality of regions are determined to be stable.